



Mission Statement ~ Our Church Exists To:

Welcome all people into relationship with Jesus Christ
Equip people with a vital, living faith, and
Send us into the world to serve in Jesus' name

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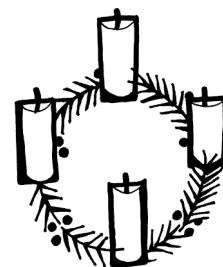
Second Sunday in Advent +++ Sunday, December 5, 2021 8:30 a.m.

The Advent Wreath

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself.

Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light.

Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us prepare for Christ's coming by turning from our sin, and seeking God's tender mercy and compassion. *(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned against you, and against our sisters and brothers. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed your reign of justice and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for the signs of your advent among us.

Forgive our sin, and come quickly to save us. Amen.

In the advent of Christ, the dawn from on high breaks upon us with light and healing. Through Jesus Christ, God looks with favor on you, and forgives you all your sins.

Amen.

OPENING SONG

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

ELW #264

GREETING

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

And also with you.

CANDLELIGHTING SONG

"He Came Down"
Verses 1-2

ELW #253

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in the darkness.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.

**Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.**

Welcome to Worship at Trinity Lutheran

Whether this is your first time worshipping with us, or if you regularly attend, we want you to know how glad we are that you are with us! Today, we gather to worship God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Worship is an act of surrender. It is an acknowledgement that we are creatures, not the creator. It is an admission that all we have is a gift given, not because we deserve it but because we are beloved. It is a time of praise – thanking God for being our God.

If you would like to grow deeper in your relationship with Jesus through Trinity Lutheran let us know – we would love to accompany you on your faith journey.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

READING: MALACHI 3:1-4

Pat Murray, reader

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: LUKE 1:68-79

(Please read responsively.)

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,

**to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**to give God’s people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION“All Earth Is Hopeful”
Verse 1

ELW #266

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

The holy gospel according to Luke, chapter 3, beginning with verse 1.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SONG OF THE DAY

“On Jordan’s Bank”

ELW #249

CHILDREN’S TIME/SERMON

Pastor Narum

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“I Believe”

**I believe in God the Father, maker of seen and unseen.
I believe in God’s Son, Jesus, come to earth to set us free.
Jesus lived on earth among us, ‘though his home was far above us.
Jesus died to save us all. Jesus died to save us all.**

**I believe in Holy Spirit who is calling everyone.
I believe in Church as family, sisters brothers, old and young.
I believe in resurrection, saints united up above.
I believe our God is love. I believe our God is love.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Please pray for Adam, Barb, Bob, Brenda, Bruce, Cheryl, Don, Donna, Fran, Gary, Jerry,
Jon, Karen, Kim, Mary, Mary Ann, Mike, Miriam, Steve, Tom, Cheryl and Mike.*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Come, Lord Jesus,
**Be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed.
Feed us with your living bread that all creation may be fed. Amen.**

THE MEAL

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**It is right to give our thanks and praise. Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we
praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.**

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your saving justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again with righteousness and peace.

Sunday, December 5th, 2021
2nd Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:1-6

He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah.

We each have areas of “wilderness” in our lives, a place where we are tested. It is in this place of wilderness that God comes to us. Can we be open to wandering into this Holy Space?

Source: Faith Simonieg, Assistant to the Bishop; Western North Dakota Synod.

Send your Spirit upon us and on these gifts of bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son. Come now, O Prince of Peace.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

SONGS DURING THE MEAL

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”
“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

ELW #247
ELW #282

COMMUNION BLESSING, PRAYER, BENEDICTION

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Let us pray. God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

May Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING SONG

“Joy to the World”

ELW #267

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Trinity's E-Newsletter!

Did you know that Trinity sends out an E-Newsletter via email twice a month now? This has taken the place of the regular Monthly Newsletter. We share recent photos, information, scriptures, events, and clickable links on the 1st and 15th of each month. It's a nice way for us to try to keep connected more often with you.

We also send out via email and Facebook our Wednesday night meal menus and announcements.

If you have not been receiving these emails and would like to, PLEASE contact Klarissa in the office so she can add you to the list. She also mails out some paper copies to people that don't have an email. The paper copies are not as convenient as the digital version though because of the clickable links, color, layout features, and cost efficiency of the digital version.

Whichever way works best for you, please let her know if you are not receiving these and/or would like to update your information. You can call her with your request at the office (701) 223-3560, email her at pudwill@trinitybismarck.com, or mail it to the church with ATTN: Klarissa.

And, by the way, you do not need to be a member here to sign up for our email list. So, if you have friends and/or family members that might like to receive updates from Trinity, we would be happy to sign them up. There is also the option to be added to a “Newsletter Only” list if that sounds more appealing to you.

Thanks for all that you do and please continue to check out the emails as we continue to try to keep everyone informed and feeling like part of our growing community here at Trinity!

